

Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg: Formative Assessment: Student Discussion Response

Materials

- Student Discussion Response Check List
- Short Stories/poems found at www.sblceastconn.org/nutmegpreassess.htm
- Nutmeg wikis:
Intermediate wiki
<http://nutmeg2009.sblc.wikispaces.net/shortstories>
Teen wiki
<http://nutmegteen2009.sblc.wikispaces.net/shortstories>

Teacher Note

You might want to have students keep track of their thinking while reading the selections using post-it notes, highlighters, two column organizers, etc.

Teacher Note

This checklist can be provide insight about both individual and whole class needs.

*Make sure to check out the **What's a Good Discussion Response** lesson.*

Formative Assessment: Student Discussion Response

Purpose:

- To assess students' reading comprehension and communication and collaboration skills in order to inform instruction.
- To provide teachers with an insight into the way their students express themselves while communicating in an online environment.
- To use as a pre and post assessment to see if students' comprehension and skills improve as a result of their involvement in the project.

Collecting the Data

How Well Do Students Comprehend and Communicate?

What can we learn from students' discussions with each other on the wiki discussion boards? How well are students interpreting, analyzing and synthesizing what they read? How well are they able to express their ideas in writing online? How prepared are they to participate as knowledgeable, respectful, and critical members of 21st century digital communities? How well do they interact with individuals representing diverse perspectives?

1. Choose a selection or selections for your students to read and respond to. The selections are at different reading levels so that you can match the level to individual students if needed.
2. Explain to students that you'd like them to first read the story or poem and then they need to log onto the Nutmeg wikispace, using their log-in names and passwords. Go to

- nutmegteen2009.sblc.wikispaces.net/shortstories (Teen)
- nutmeg2009.sblc.wikispaces.net/shortstories (Intermediate)

and click on the title of the selection read. Under the discussion tab, they will find several question subjects. They need to click on a subject, read the question, look at the other students replies, write their own response in the message box, and click on post to submit. Students will need to go back to the Discussion Tab each time that they want to respond to a new subject. Encourage students to post their own questions.

Using the Data

Student Discussion Response Checklist

The Student Discussion Response Checklist is a Word document that can be printed as is, or downloaded and customized to fit your own needs. See the filled in example on the *Spice it Up* website.

After reading your students' responses to the selections put a check in the first box under each skill where you saw evidence that the skill was being used. The second box under each skill can be used to record post assessment observations after discussion lessons and practice discussing online.